



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

March 16, 2000

Ref: 8EPR-EP

Bob Castaneda, Forests Supervisor  
Kootenai National Forest  
1101 U.S. Highway 2 West  
Libby, Montana 59923

Re: FEIS Review #000036  
Wayup Mine / 4th of July Roads

Dear Mr. Castaneda:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Region VIII Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the Wayup Mine / Fourth of July Road Access dated January 2000. The Forest responded adequately to EPA's comments on the DEIS. With the addition of other road closures and sediment control improvements to offset the impacts from the new or reworked roads, the Region has no continuing significant issues.

For future reference, the Denver EPA office does not typically review Montana EISs, except for large mining projects. Montana EISs are reviewed by the EPA Montana Operations Office in Helena. Normally, Montana EISs should be sent for review only to EPA Headquarters and the Helena office. We reviewed this EIS due to the heavy workload in our Montana office.

We appreciate your interest in our review. Please contact Dana Allen (303) 312-6870 if you have any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

*Os*

Cynthia Cody  
Chief, NEPA Unit  
Office of Ecosystems Protection  
and Remediation

cc: Steve Potts, EPA MT  
Tim Charnon

bcc: Elaine Surianao, EPA HQ  
HQ Tracking, EPA HQ

cc: Tim Charnon  
District Ranger, Libby Ranger District  
Kootenai National Forest  
12557 Highway 37  
Libby, Montana 59923